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ABSTRACT

As part of the overall evaluation of the journalism program at William Rainey Harper College (WRHC) in Illinois, a follow-up survey of former students was conducted to determine current activities and perceptions of the program. Questionnaires were mailed to 236 of the 310 students who had, for the most part, passed three or more journalism classes, yielding a response rate of 52%. Study findings included the following: (1) after an average of 7 years since leaving WRHC, 70% of the respondents were employed full-time and another 16% were employed part-time; (2) among the employed respondents, 55% were working in a field at least closely related to journalism, as compared to the collegewide average of 69% for career alumni; (3) of the 57 working alumni who were not employed in a journalism-related field, 24 had once worked in the field and many commented that their journalism background had value for their present endeavor; (4) the average full-time annual salary of the journalism students was very similar to that of all career alumni; (5) 47.5% of the respondents indicated that they had not met their career goals at all; (6) 73.5% continued their education after leaving WRHC, and 49% had achieved a bachelor's degree; and (7) 66% of the employed respondents found their jobs on their own, as compared to 44% of the career alumni as a whole. The study report includes student comments and the questionnaire. (EJV)

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WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE

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Follow-Up Study of Former Journalism Students 1969-1984

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JC 860 016

Janice A. Cook, Secretary
Linda Pones — Mailing, Tabulation and Telephone Surveying

ABSTRACT

THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY WAS TO FOLLOW UP ON FORMER STUDENTS OF THE JOURNALISM PROGRAM AS ONE PART OF THE OVERALL EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM. AMONG 310 STUDENTS WHO HAD EVER PASSED THREE OR MORE JOURNALISM CLASSES, THE JOURNALISM COORDINATOR SELECTED 236 FORMER STUDENTS TO FORM THE TARGET POPULATION. AFTER A FOLLOW-UP SURVEY WAS MAILED TO THEM TWICE AND SEVERAL TELEPHONE ATTEMPTS WERE COMPLETED, A RESPONSE RATE OF 52 PERCENT WAS ACHIEVED. ON THE AVERAGE, THESE STUDENTS HAD BEEN AWAY FROM HARPER FOR SEVEN YEARS.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY SHOWED THAT FEWER FORMER JOURNALISM STUDENTS ARE EMPLOYED IN A RELATED FIELD THAN ALUMNI FROM OTHER CAREER PROGRAMS. EVEN SO, MORE THAN HALF ARE WORKING IN A FIELD RELATED TO JOURNALISM AND MANY WHO LEFT THE FIELD HAD ONCE WORKED IN JOURNALISM AFTER LEAVING HARPER COLLEGE. MOREOVER, MANY OF THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT THE FIELD COMMENTED THAT THEY VALUE THEIR JOURNALISM BACKGROUND SINCE THE DISCIPLINE OF WRITING THAT THE PROGRAM CREATED IN THEM HELPS THEM TODAY IN THEIR PRESENT ENDEAVOR. THEIR ANNUAL SALARY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF EMPLOYMENT IS VERY SIMILAR TO ALL CAREER ALUMNI.

WHEN EVALUATED AS TO THEIR EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AFTER LEAVING HARPER COLLEGE, JOURNALISM STUDENTS SEEM TO BE SOMEWHERE BETWEEN GRADUATES OF CAREER PROGRAMS AND GRADUATES OF TRANSFER PROGRAMS. VERY CLOSE TO HALF HAVE ACHIEVED AT LEAST A BACHELOR'S DEGREE AFTER LEAVING HARPER COLLEGE.

MANY OF THESE FORMER JOURNALISM STUDENTS HAVE SET VERY AMBITIOUS GOALS FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR THE MOST PART THESE GOALS ARE YET TO BE FULLY ATTAINED. FORTY PERCENT OF THESE STUDENTS LISTED A NUMBER OF AWARDS THEY HAVE RECEIVED AND NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS THEY HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE YEARS SINCE LEAVING HARPER COLLEGE.

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this study was to follow up former students of the journalism program. This follow-up was to serve as one part of the evaluation of the journalism program and as a means of gathering interesting items for the newsletter for journalism alumni. The study was requested by the coordinator of the journalism program.

POPULATION SURVEYED

All 1,605 students who had ever passed at least one journalism course prior to the fall of 1984 were identified first. Among students on this list, 310 students had passed three or more journalism courses. From this latter list the coordinator of the journalism program eliminated 63 persons who had passed three journalism courses and 13 persons who had passed four more journalism courses. In addition, the coordinator selected one student who had passed two journalism courses and one who had passed one journalism course. This produced a final sample size of 236 former students.

A survey was mailed to each student of the sample group and after appropriate follow-up procedures were followed, 68 mail responses and 55 telephone responses were received for a return rate of 52.1 percent. This return rate is all that can be expected from students who have been gone five or more years.

METHODOLOGY

The survey shown in the appendix was developed jointly by the coordinator of the journalism program and the Office of Planning and Research. After the original mailing to the target population in January of 1985, a second mailing was sent three weeks later to the non-respondents. Those still not responding after another three weeks were telephoned and, if possible, information was gathered in that manner.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

After an average of seven years, 70 percent are employed full time and another 16 percent are employed part time. Only about 2 percent are unemployed and searching for a job. This is about the same as all career alumni after the same length of time.

Among those employed, 55 percent are working in a field at least closely related to journalism. This is lower than the average career alumni where 69 percent work in a field at least closely related to their field at Harper. However, it should be noted that 24 of the 57 (42%) who are not now in the journalism field once worked in this field.

The average full-time salary of these former students in journalism is just under $26,000 per year which is close to the average salary earned by all career alumni after being gone from Harper for seven years. The average salary for these former journalism students when they first started work was only $11,000, but for many, that was many years ago.

Slightly less than half (47½%) of the respondents in this study say they have not met their career goals at all. Some of these goals are very

ambitious such as being a foreign correspondent, writing a book, being a T.V. news anchor person, directing a movie, being a newspaper editor or owning a T.V. station. Some goals are easier to reach such as achieving a bachelor's degree or being promoted to manager status. Still others are very general and can never be fully reached such as improving the quality of their performance or expanding their horizons. It is difficult to evaluate the meaning of this goals item. For example, on the one hand it is nice that 27½ percent have met or exceeded their goals, but what do they do now? It is also nice that some respondents have set very ambitious goals that will take a long time to meet or may never be met.

Some 73½ percent have continued their education beyond Harper and 49 percent have achieved a bachelor's degree. This description puts journalism students between the education responses to surveys of all career alumni and transfer alumni. Six or seven years after leaving Harper, half of the career alumni continue their education elsewhere and 23 percent achieve a bachelor's degree, while 85 percent of the transfer alumni continue their education and 67 percent achieve a bachelor's degree. Considering the educational fields of these former journalism students, 70 percent of those achieving a bachelor's degree did it in a field related to journalism. Among those who have continued their education but have not completed a bachelor's degree, only 30 percent are taking courses in a field related to journalism.

The migration rates of journalism students in finding jobs are close to rates for all career alumni. Some 15 percent of these former journalism students found jobs out of state compared to 10 percent for all career alumni. On the other hand, 60 percent of the former journalism students employed found jobs in the Harper district which is very comparable to all career alumni. Two-thirds of those employed report they found their jobs entirely on their own. This is much higher than among all career alumni where 44 percent find their jobs entirely on their own.

A total of 49 former journalism students listed awards, promotions and accomplishments they have received since leaving Harper. Fourteen stated they were proud of their written words or productions for which they were responsible. Another ten received awards in journalism while eight received multiple promotions on the job, and five have started or greatly expanded their own business. Four reported they were members of honorary societies and another four were proud of their educational achievement. Three received educational awards while still another three reported they were president of a professional association.

Comments on the journalism program were offered by 65 former students. Among these comments, 88 percent were positive as compared to 65 percent positive comments given by all career alumni. These former students were also asked to name the most beneficial courses taken at Harper. Twenty cited the news reporting and writing course while 17 said all the courses were equally beneficial. A number of other specific courses were listed by other former journalism students. Finally, these former students were asked to give their best advice to current journalism students. Advice given included continue education after Harper, work hard, listen, get lots of broad work experiences and write a lot.

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS

Fewer former journalism students are employed in a related field than alumni from other career programs. Even so, more than half are working in a field related to journalism and many who left the field had once worked in journalism after leaving Harper College. Moreover, many of those who have left the field commented that they value their journalism background since the discipline of writing that the program created in them helps them today in their present endeavor. Their annual salary and geographical location of employment is very similar to all career alumni.

When evaluated as to their educational achievements after leaving Harper College, journalism students seem to be somewhere between graduates of career programs and graduates of transfer programs. Very close to half have achieved at least a bachelor's degree after leaving Harper.

Many of these former journalism students have set very ambitious goals for themselves and for the most part these goals are yet to be fully attained. Forty percent of these students listed a number of awards they have received and notable achievements they have accomplished in the years since leaving Harper College.

DETAILED RESULTS

SURVEY OF FORMER HARPER COLLEGE JOURNALISM STUDENTS

Current Employment Situation	N	PCT
Employed Full Time	86	69.9
Employed Part Time by Choice	18.5	15.1
Employed Part Time but Would Prefer Full-Time Employment	1	.8
Unemployed by Choice	15	12.2
Searching for Employment	2.5	2.0
	123	100.0

For all Career Alumni 73½% employed full time long-term follow-up

Relatedness of Present Job to Journalism	Closeness Index	N	PCT
It is Identical	3	34.5	32.5
It is Closely Related	2	23.5	22.2
It is Somewhat Related	1	8	7.6
It is not Related but Would Prefer Working in Journalism Field	0	9	8.5
It is not Related by Choice	0	31	29.2
		106	100.0

Average Index	1.50
Average Index for all Career Alumni	2.00
Percent all Career Alumni Employed in Identical or Closely Related Fields	69%

Note: Twenty-four of those not now in the Journalism field once worked in the field.

Full-Time Salary Ranges

Salary Range	Present Salary N	Present Salary PCT	Starting Salary N	Starting Salary PCT
Under $5,000	0	0	2	3.3
$ 5,000 - $ 7,000	0	0	5	8.2
$ 7,000 - $ 8,999	0	0	8	13.1
$ 9,000 - $ 9,999	2	2.5	9	14.8
$10,000 - $11,999	2	2.6	16	26.2
$12,000 - $14,999	6	7.6	13	21.3
$15,000 - $19,999	18	22.8	6	9.8
$20,000 - $24,999	13	16.4	2	3.3
$25,000 - $29,999	18	22.8	0	0
$30,000 - $34,999	4	5.0	0	0
$35,000 - $39,999	6	7.6	0	0
Over $40,000	10	12.7	0	0
Total	79	100.0	61	100.0
Mean Salary	$25,690		$11,262	
Median Salary	$24,423		$10,813	
Mean Salary all Career Alumni	$25,300**		$16,734*	
Median Salary all Career Alumni	$23,556**		$15,682*	

**1984 Survey

*1983 Survey

Extent to Which Career Goals were met at Harper College	N	PCT
Not met at all	56	47.4
Is very close to meeting them	29.5	25.0
Yes, have met career goals	22.5	19.1
Have exceeded original goals set	10	8.5
	118	100.0

Goals not met	N
Achieve a bachelor's degree or higher	11
Write a book or play or short stories	8
Take on more responsibility in writing field	5
Make more money	4
Reach manager status	3
Be an anchor person on T.V. news program	2
Direct a movie	2
Find a job in Journalism	2
Start or expand advertising business	2
Be a foreign correspondent	1
Be an editor of a newspaper	1
Study photography	1
Be a coach in high school	1
Work with children in speech, hearing, or reading therapy	1
To have business in business writing field	1
Improve quality of pictures and publications	1
Expand and broaden horizons	1
To learn as much as possible	1
Own T.V. station	1
Work on original articles	1
Become more involved with graphics, design and layout of magazines	1
Switch from medical field to field which is more personally satisfying	1
Not sure what goals are	3
Goals not specified	8

Education Pursued Since Leaving Harper	N	PCT
Have not taken any courses since leaving Harper	32	26.4
Have continued their education but have not yet achieved a bachelor's degree	30	24.8
Have achieved a bachelor's degree or higher	59	48.8
Total	121	100.0

Percent all career alumni continuing their education after leaving Harper	50%
Percent all career alumni achieving a bachelor's degree	23%
Percent all transfer alumni continuing their education after leaving Harper	85%
Percent all transfer alumni achieving a bachelor's degree	67%

Geographic Location of Job	Distance Index	N	PCT
Downtown Chicago	2	8.58	8.1
Outer fringes of Chicago city limits	1	4.58	4.3
Northwest Suburban area	0	59.58	56.2
Other Chicago area suburbs	1	7.25	6.8
Within 40-100 miles of Chicago	3	8	7.6
Illinois - more than 100 miles of Chicago	4	2	1.9
Outside Illinois	5	16	15.1
Total		106	100.0

Average Distance Index 1.33

Average Distance Index - All Career Alumni 1.06

Percent Employed Out of State - All Career Alumni 10%

Employed in Other States

Iowa - 3	New York - 1	New Mexico - 1
Florida - 2	Wisconsin - 1	Kentucky - 1
Michigan - 2	California - 1	Washington, D. C. - 1
Minnesota - 2	Arizona - 1	

How Students Found Their Job

Method	N	PCT
Found job on their own	66	66
A friend or relative helped	10	10
Coordinator of Journalism Program	5	5
Newspaper Ad	5	5
Working on same job that student was working on when they entered Harper College	3	3
Another college helped	3	3
Self-Employed	3	3
Recruited by employer	2	2
Another faculty member helped	1	1
Church helped	1	1
Through temporary employment	1	1
Total	100	100

Among all career alumni, 44 percent found job on their own

Name and Address of Employer:

Did not Answer - 1
Self Employed - 5
Temporary Employment Service

The Daily Herald
Arlington Heights
Illinois 60005

Creative Advertising Service

Olsen Temporary Service

Royal Publishing

San Diego, ABC

Temporary Job Service

Amoco

Blue Cross/Blue Shield

Central Dupage Hospital

General Electric

University of Iowa

Zayre

City News Bureau

Jiffy Print

Osco Drug

Woodstock Sentinel/Herald

Stevenson School

Young and Rubicam
111 E. Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Des Plaines Times
1000 Executive Way
Des Plaines, Ill., 60018

Spiegel - Regency Towers
1515 W. 22nd
Oak Brook, Illinois 60522

Electronic Buyers News
600 Community Drive
Manhasset, New York 11361

Apco Valve and Primer Corp.
1420 W. Wright Boulevard
Schaumburg, Ill. 60193

Data Domain of Schaumburg
1612 E. Algonquin Road
Schaumburg, Illinois 60195

Federated Foods, Inc.
3025 West Salt Creek Lane
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005

Kramer Advertising
Rolling Meadows
Illinois

Harper College
Palatine, Illinois

WYEN Radio
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018

Daily Herald
Lake Zurich Edition

Radio Station
Western University

Sun Community Directories
Minnetonka, Minnesota

LTA Computers
Niles, Illinois

Charlie Club
Palatine, Illinois

Chicago Producers, Inc.
Chicago, Illinois

Eswood School District, #269
Lindenwood, Illinois 61049

Gary Grandpre
GPI Film Production Center
200 East Ontario, 506
Chicago, Illinois 60641

Dept. of Commerce/Community Affairs
10th Floor, 310 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Allstate Life Insurance
Allstate Plaza, South
Northbrook, Illinois 60062

WAVE-TV
Floyd Street
Louisville, Kentucky 40232

Combinco Insurance Company
5050 Broadway
Chicago, Illinois

Name and Address of Employer: (continued)

Northwest Community Hospital
800 W. Central Road
Arlington Heights, Ill. 60007

John Hancock Insurance
One Woodfield Lake Road
Schaumburg, Illinois 60194

United Airlines
P. O. Box
Chicago, Illinois 60666

St. John the Evangelist School
513 Parkside Circle
Streamwood, Illinois

Rusty Scupper
Higgins Road
Schaumburg, Illinois

Quick Silver Marketing & Public Relations
1151 Bryn Mawr
Itasca, Illinois 60143

George J. Ball, Inc.
250 Town Road
West Chicago, Ill., 60185

Shaw Free Press Newspaper
250 Williams Road
Carpentersville, Illinois

Ressler Communications
1926 Prairie Square, Suite 228
Schaumburg, Illinois 60195

Rush Presbyterian/St. Luke's
1753 W. Congress Parkway
Chicago, Illinois 60612

Merrit International Steel Corp.
800 E. Northwest Highway
Mt. Prospect, Illinois 60056

St. Joseph Hospital
77 Airlite
Elgin, Illinois 60120

Motorola Communications/Elec., Inc.
8000 W. Sunrise Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33322

William B. Boutler
Chicago, Illinois

Airfone, Inc.
2809 Butterfield Road
Oak Brook, Illinois

St. John Evangelist Church
427 Cedarcrest Drive
Streamwood, Illinois

Rowin and Assoc.
800 E. Northwest Highway
Palatine, Ill. 60067

Fleishman Communications, Inc.
2401 Plum Grove Road
Palatine, Illinois 60067

Ultra-Grafix
120 West Route 176, P. O. Box 711
Island Lake, Illinois 60042

Palm Beach Post and Evening Times
2751 South Dixie Highway
West Plam Beach, Florida 33405

Fleet Mortgage Corporation
1375 E. Schaumburg Road
Schaumburg, Ill., 60194

Recon Optical, Inc.
550 West Northwest Highway
Barrington, Illinois 60010

Moody Bible Institute
820 N. LaSalle Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Shaw Free Press Media, Inc.
2803 Pyott Road, Box 250
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014

Acco Internationa, Inc.
770 S. Acco Plaza
Wheeling, Illinois 60090

Zayre Department Store
240 West Lake Street
Addison, Illinois 60101

Paddock Publications
217 Campbell
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60006

UOP
Des Plaines, Ill., 60018

Name and Address of Employer: (continued)

Mohave Desert News
Arizona

The Daily News
P. O. Box 460
Iron Mountain, Mich., 49801

Professional Photographic Magazine
1090 Executive Way
Des Plaines, Ill., 60018

Sherman Hospital
934 Center Street
Elgin, Illinois 60120

Des Moines Register & Tribune Company
715 Locust
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Better Business Communications
4A E. Wilson Street
Batavia, Illinois 60510

Continental Mobile Telephone Co., Inc.
1500 Paddock Drive
Northbrook, Ill. 60062

Richard Honquest
Barrington Road
Barrington, Illinois 60010

Nat'l. Semiconductor/Datachecker DTS
1821 Walden Office Plaza, Suite 500
Schaumburg, Illinois 60195

Sears Roebuck and Company
Dept. 703, Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60684

Ground Round Restaurant
825 W. Dundee
Arlington Heights, Ill., 60004

Smith Filosa Law Firm
New Mexico

Vance Publishing Corporation
400 Knightsbridge Parkway
Lincolnshire, 60069

Cahners Publishing Company
1350 East Touhy Avenue
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018

Martin/Williams Advertising
Ten South Fifth Street
Minneapolis, Minn. 55401

WTOP All News Radio
4646 40th Street, NW
Washington, D. C.

Gibbs and Soell, Inc.
126 E. 38th Street
New York, N.Y. 10016

Coles, The Book People
Chicago Ridge Mall
Chicago Ridge, Ill., 60415

Designs of Natalie
Crystal Lake
Illinois

Rhea Dawson, The Delos Company, Ltd.
1350 E. Touhy Avenue, No. 110W
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018

Motorola, Inc.
1301 E. Algonquin Road
Schaumburg, Illinois 60195

Kemper Group Insurance
Kemper Drive and Route 22
Long Grove, Illinois 60049

Job Titles:

Did not answer - 1
Account Executive - 3
Self employed - 3
Assistant Manager - 2
Teacher - 2
Associate Creative Director
Columnist
Projectionist, Assistant Editor
Vice President
Creative Director
Copy Writer - 3
Reporter - 3
Correspondent - 2
Anchor Man, Reporter - 2
Associate Editor
Inventory Control Manager
Waitress
Optical Sound Technician
Feature Writer / Short Stories
Deputy Director

Job Titles: (continued)

Writer/Program Assistant
Marketing Division Manager
Advertising Sales
Freelance Writer
Sports Reporter
Business Systems Analyst
Sales Manager/Graphics Division
Owns Video Store
Assistant Professor
Supervisor
Advertising Representative
Teaching English and Film Making
Feature Editor/Reporter
Clerk
Vice President, Publishing
Warehouse and Factory Work
Marketing Coordinator
Nurse
Writer
Quality Control for Customer Service
Senior Claims Approver
Executive Vice President
Waiter
Business Owner
Public Relations Director
Staff Photographer
Manager of Marketing Communications
Loan Processor
Transplant Coordinator
Midwest Sales Manager
Group Manager
Copy Editor, Columnist, Reporter
Manager Editor/Home Center Magazine
Assistant Editor
Nuclear Medicine Technologist
Editorial Writer
Accounting Supervisor
General Manager
Promotion Assistant
Freelance Copywriter
Bartender
Priest
Teacher/Coach
Freelance Writer
CPA
Micro Tech
Travel Administrator
Administrative Asst. Information Systems
Production Control
Attorney
Graphic Artist
Public Relations, Associate Specialist
Account Manager, Project Manager
President, Advertising Service
Coordinator of Student Activities
Sell Advertising for Yellow Pages
Girl Friday
Program Director
Floral Designer, Accessory Designer
District Material Planner
Manager, Public Relations
Marketing Communications Manager
International Public Relations
Manager of Dining Room Operations
Data Processing/Telecommunications Specialist
Stringer/Feature Stories
Night Supervisor, Composing/Production
Medical Social Worker
Manager, Product Literature/Training Center
Lifestyles Editor
City Staff Reporter
National Sales Coordinator
Senior Copywriter
Director of News and Programming
Copy Chief
Sales

Former Employer of those who once worked in the Journalism Field:

Paddock Publications - 2

Record Labor/News
Montgomery, Ill.

Daily Herald

Hanover Park Star

Self-Employed

Suburban Tribune

Sacred Heart Church

Palos Regional News
Palos Heights, Illinois

WIVS-WXET Radio
Lake Valley Broadcasters
300 Commerce Drive
Crystal Lake, Illinois

Barrington Area Council of Govt.
Barrington, Illinois

WNIU - DeKalb

Barrington Courier

Airlines

Harper College, Community Relations Dept.
Palatine, Illinois 60067

Former Employer of those who once worked in the Journalism Field: (continued)

Concrete Products Magazine
300 West Adams Street
Chicago, Illinois 60606

U of I Medical Center
Public Affairs
Chicago, Illinois

Maria High School
Chicago

Centel Business Systems
1255 Mark Street
Bensenville, Illinois 60106

Gorman Publishing

W. G. Holdsworth and Assoc.

Davidson Advertising

Southtown Economist

Northwest Mental Health Center
1616 N. Arlington Hgts. Road
Arlington Heights, Ill., 60004

Was interviewed and hired by two publications but had to turn down their offers because the entry level pay was too low.

Had three jobs, all in Journalism. 1979-1980 - Assistant Editor Copley Record Newspaper, 1981-1983 - Assistant Editor Technical Publishing Company and was hired as a writer for the job at Ameritech.

After graduation, was employed at WRP Advertising, Des Plaines. Clients were primarily automobile dealerships

Former Job Title of those who once worked in Journalism Field

Reporter - 4

Stringer - 3

Assistant Editor - 2

Editor

Feature Writer

Freeland P/R

Writer - covered stories, civic news

Teacher - Student newspaper advisor

Brochure writer

Managing Editor

Half-time Public Relations Coordinator

Editorial/Journalism and Speech teacher

Copy Director 1976-1979

Creative Consultant, 1984

Newsletter Editor

Classified Advertising Assistant

Production Manager

Copywriter/Advertising Secretary

Freeland Advertising Copywriter

Account Coordinator

Public Relations Assistant

Personal awards, Promotions, or Accomplishments achieved since leaving Harper College

Third place Nina Award -- feature.
Received my BS in journalism with emphasis on public relations.
Have written two screenplays of feature length for my senior thesis and am now actively involved in the writing of a screenplay for production in 1986.

Personal awards, Promotions, or Accomplishments
achieved since leaving Harper College

Own Data Domain of Schaumburg, a retail computer store started in 1977.
Phi Beta Kappa
President - Woodfield Business and Professional Women, 1984-85
One of my articles won an award from a national group called Women in Communication, another won an award from the Illinois Press Association.
BA degree in Journalism from NIU - Advertising emphasis. Promoted to Sales Manager in April of 1984.
Phi Beta Kappa honorary membership.
Worked on school paper at Southern Illinois University.
Best news story for 1983 and promotion to feature editor/assistant editor.
Feature article for "Chief Financial Officers."
Educational accomplishments in radio, primarily.
Have won PRSA and IABC awards for publications and photography. Many job promotions throughout the years. Have judged PRSA Silver Anvil awards. Won Illinois State Jaycee award for best project in State.
Book was named Campus Life Magazines' biography of the year for 1979: two novels won Angel Awards in 1984 and 1985.
Opened my own business.
Began working in 72-market. Two years later I am working in a 41-market station and receiving calls from top ten stations. I am learning and moving!
In two years at my present job, I have received two promotions.
Director of the First Northwest Film Festival which featured appearances by Robert Altman and Tab Hunter. I have also been published three times in "Programming" Magazine - a professional magazine that is published nationally for other people in the field.
Health Insurance Association of America Group Health part A and B tests passed and certificate awarded.
Was copywriter for a book - Gil Thorpe 25th Anniversary yearbook. Available in local bookstores and by mail order. In the process of contributing to the second book.
Producer of 6 and 10 News, WIFR-TV for six months before this job. Variety of paid positions in J department at NIU's television newsroom.
Third place spot news photo, Inland Daily Press Pictures of the Year competition (POY), 1983. First place editorial illustration, second place campaign news, Indiana POY 1983. Top 20 rating, Hearst Foundation college photojournalism competition, 1984. Indiana College photographer of the year 1984, portfolio finalist, newspaper photographer of the year, Atlanta Seminar, 1984.
Producer of several video programs - member of Society of Collegiate Journalists.
Three different positions with promotions.
I started at Concrete Products magazine as a copy editor after graduating from Harper, then was promoted to associate editor and then to managing editor.
Editor of NIU campus paper, Northern Star - recipient of two William Randolph Hearst awards for general news writing and investigative reporting, BGS degree from NIU.
President, Illinois Procurement Coordinators Council, 1985 - Chairman, Public Educator, American Council on Transplantation, 1985 - Outstanding Young Women of America, 1984 - American Business Women's Association Program Chair, 1985.
Nothing other than a few articles published in Horse, Illustrated, Hunting Dog Magazine and Seventeen. But I have not had the time to freelance in the past few years. I also wrote some of the Ameritech region's major documents concerning the divestiture from AT and T.
"Priscilla Anne Moulton Memorial Award" and "Outstanding Senior" from the Geography Department at SIU.
Daily News - staff writer to Lifestyles editor. Graduated Summa Cum Laude, Northern Michigan, 1983.

Personal awards, Promotions, or Accomplishments
achieved since leaving Harper College (continued)

Presently working on a five-part series on the Chicago crime lab's former chief microanalyst who I met while working on a murder case for the law firm that also employs me on an as-needed basis. I am also a Special Process Server for McHenry County and considering returning to college for a law degree. I recently instructed the Chicago sales force of Quinlan-Tyson Real Estate in effective classified newspaper advertising/copy writing at an afternoon seminar. I have also written jingles for radio advertisers locally as well as devised major media promotions. One promotion example was a WXET $100,000 button contest in cooperation with the Illinois State Lottery.

Many people warned me not to get into journalism - that jobs are very hard to get in this field. So my biggest accomplishment is that I have not only been steadily employed since graduation (from NIU in 1981) but I have made thousands of dollars doing freelance writing for magazines as well.

I am a member of the American Society for Training and Development, and have been listed in their book of Who's Who since 1980. I chaired a judging competition for the U.S. Film Festival, 1979-82.

James Scholar Honor Student at University of Illinois, Chicago - President Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society - Golden Key Honor Society promotions from reporter to columnist to copy editor.

Started as associate editor in 1979 to feature editor in late 1980 to managing editor in 1983. Vice president of American Society of Business Press Editors 1981-82 (Chicago chapter).

Recipient of Scripps-Howard Newspaper Foundation Scholarship for my senior year at NIU.

I attained my master's degree in advertising from Northwestern University.

Various creative awards within the advertising field.

Have gone from being a news assistant on the Register's Farm/Business staff to features copy editor to television editor to the editorial - writers staff within seven years.

Norma, Athena Awards

Began business four years ago - advertising, associations publications publishing.

Currently responsible for a $300,000/year public relations program for a Fortune 30 corporation.

Editor and publisher of Hida Newsletter, circ. 120 - teach color and design, visual merchandising, how to decorate with accessories, how to choose and display art and other seminars and workshops at M.C.C., R.V.C. and to women's clubs, etc.

Simply being hired after eight months unemployed (without unemployment insurance) from 1981-82.

P.R. awards from Association Trends Magazine while employed at association, American Society of Business Press Editors Graphics Award for Assn. magazine of which I was managing editor.

I anchor Sears, 15 minutes - a capsule news account of what is happening in the company. Editor of outlook - an internal house organization. Former stringer (internship) for ABC-TV in Denver, and Elgin Herald.

Dean's list - two years, Ohio University; member Sigma Delta Chi (Society of Professional Journalists PRSSA, IBAC); completed internship as reporter - town local paper.

Scholarship at Roosevelt - work promotion from assistant to dining room manager.

Rapid promotion at Kemper and quick salary increases. I have made contributions to long range corporate planning and have been called upon to perform crucial analytical work.

Those who have continued their education but have not Achieved a Bachelor's Degree - School and Major Field

Harper College - Journalism - 4
Did not specify major field
Different courses
Business courses
Nursing
Music
Psychology
AAS degree - Interior Design
Did not Specify - 2
Northern Illinois - Journalism - 2
English
Liberal Arts and Science
DePaul - Marketing - 2
Western Illinois - Communications
Georgetown, Washington, D. C. - International Relations
Cornell University - Home Study
Bryman - Data Processing
University of Illinois, Chicago - Communications, Political Science
McHenry Community College - Did not Specify
Marycrest College - Broadcasting
University of Michigan Graduate School - Programmed Instruction
Roosevelt - Marketing, Management
Northwest Community Hospital - X-ray technology and St. Anthony's Hospital, Denver, Nuclear Medicine
Took DPR-101 at Harper College - now taking 4 hour Hebrew Language-102 at Oakton.

Those who have achieved a Bachelor's Degree or Higher - School, Major Field, and Degree

Northern Illinois - Journalism - BA - 9
Journalism - BS - 3
Journalism/Communications - BS
Photography/Film - BS
Education - BS
Public Relations - BA
General Studies - BA
Family Social Services - BS
Southern Illinois - Journalism - BS - 4
Cinema - BA (presently part-time at Loyola)
Journalism - BA
Film Making - BA
Radio/Television - BA
Journalism - BA and Law degree from John Marshal Law School, Chicago
Advertising - BS
Broadcast News/Journalism - BS
Geography - BS
Radio/Journalism - BS
University of Illinois - Journalism - Did not indicate degree
Art/Architectural - BA
Illinois State University - English/Mass Communications - Did not specify degree
Judson College - Journalism/Communications - BA
Northwestern - Communications - BA
University of Florida - Accounting and Law

Those who have achieved a Bachelor's Degree or Higher -
School, Major Field, and Degree (continued)

DePaul University - BA and Roosevelt University - Adult Education - MA
Roosevelt University - Business Administration - BS
University of Iowa - Working on PhD
University of Arizona - Journalism - BA
University of Missouri - Journalism - BA
Columbia College - Journalism - BA
Roosevelt University - Marketing/Advertising - BA
Graduate courses in Marketing Communications
University of Minnesota - Journalism - BA
Northeastern Illinois - Physical Education - BA
Business Management and Marketing - BA
Indiana University - Journalism - BA
Loyola University - Communications/Arts - BA
Communications -BA and master's degree in advertising from Northwestern University.
Iowa State University - Journalism - did not specify degree
University of Missouri Columbia - News Education - BS
Illinois State University- English/Mass Communications - did not specify degree
Ohio University - Public Relations - BS
Northern Michigan Univ. - Speech Communications - BS
Univ. of Colorado - Accounting - BS
Northern Illinois - Journalism - BA (plus taken additional night classes since then and attended numerous company paid seminars on advertising and public relations.)
Has gone on for a Master's degree in Psychology.
Have taken some computer courses since leaving - already had BA when taking journalism courses.

What specific classes in the Journalism Program benefited you, and why?

Newswriting - helped me get jobs on local papers. Advertising classes, helped me in advanced classes at Roosevelt.
Copy editing and writing, also layouts - advertising. I wound up getting involved in this field after school. Wish I could have gotten more involved with the technical end of publishing instead of being such an efficient secretary and assistant.
Sorry to say, they all seem to blend together in my memory - cannot help on this question.
Editing skills, copy fitting skills, class with lab included, newspaper production - magazine.
Intro class with Callahan's Grammar for journalists - Newswriting - feature writing - all stressed the basics on which to build and use in my career.
Reporting and feature writing - Mr. Roepken was tough and did not let anyone slide by - he really made us work for the good grades - just like an employer would - I realize that now that I have been working -- I did not know it then.
All the courses were beneficial, but if I had to choose the ones that helped me the most, I would say -- News Reporting and Writing - taught me how to write concisely - Copyreading and news editing - taught me the principles of the make up and design of a publication - Externship study - nothing beats practical experience.

What specific classes in the Journalism Program benefited you, and why? (continued)

It has been so long - ten years to be exact. I suppose that although I cannot remember individual classes, the overall impact has stayed with me. The program itself is the major benefit.

I have always been primarily interested in editing and page design, so have found those courses most useful.

Henry Roepken was always very informative, interesting, mind expanding, and humorous! In my opinion, he was at his best when sidetracking the lecture of the day. Very enlightening individual.

From the classes that I took, I would say fundamentals and feature. The first because it gave me a solid basis of information to develop upon; the second because that is where my interest lies. I intend to return to Harper and complete the program within the next year.

News writing because it made you learn to keep your writing concise.

Copy reading/editing - being placed as sports editor gave me a better look at the other aspects of journalism (outside of photography). More importantly, I developed a better sense of responsibility, more backbone, and a better character. I would like to thank Miss Havlic and Mr. Roepken for that.

Public relations and marketing classes were fascinating to me as I had a special interest in these areas. I appreciated the opportunities to do the "hands-on" work involved in the newspaper layout of the advertising as well as developing a marketing approach for my product.

The experience I gained through the actual production of a newspaper, and the production of television and radio newscasts have helped my career more than any other classes or projects.

Newswriting, copy editing, feature writing and the fundamentals of journalism.

No single class benefited me more than another. I feel that each class was important to a good understanding of the various fields that journalism encompasses. The journalism program at Harper College is second to none.

Media Adjuncts - putting together a newspaper from scratch was extremely valuable and practical experience. Fundamentals of Journalism - it is so important for journalists to have good grammatical and spelling skills. Speech - forces a person to put himself or herself in the public eye, as most journalists do.

Honestly, I cannot remember all the courses. However, I must emphasize the important of broadness in scope of the program. It is extremely important to the students.

In my area of study, radio and TV helped me the most. Not only did we learn how to write for broadcast newscasts, but we also did them. I also learned technical radio skills.

I think the reason why the journalism program is so excellent has less to do with the classes than with Mr. Roepke and Ms. Havlic, and the way they stress almost immediately professional involvement by encouraging their students to "string" for newspapers and submit feature articles to magazines. I published my first story in the Chiago Tribune Magazine before the second semester was underway. Mr. Roepken and Ms. Havlic had the perception to realize that professionalism comes from professional involvement early on in one's career.

Magazine writing class - gave realistic advice on how to get freelance work published.

Magazine Writing - I have saved my notes and use them while compiling articles to submit to various publications. While I have not yet been accepted for publication, I attribute it more to the sporadic-type effort on my part rather than actual lack of writing skill.

Basic reporting and externship. Instruction in basic reporting was aggressive and concise and emphasized a "systematic" approach to fundamental reporting. I believe this promoted clear-thinking under pressure. Externships, on the other hand, with its requirement of experience beyond one's selected field, made me aware of how many different careers one might apply his talent to.

What specific classes in the Journalism Program benefited you, and why? (Continued)

Fundamentals, news reporting and writers, feature writing, and media adjuncts.
The basics - news writing and feature writing - but mostly externship.
I feel every one of them was good. Looking in retrospect the program was concise in structure and competitive.
All
None specially but the program as a whole is beneficial in improving communication and people interaction skills.
Editing class - I do a lot of editing at work - Media Adjuncts - I am forever writing photo caps, and I am in the process of continuing my education in layout and fitting headlines to space available in a section.
Feature writing, reporting and English courses.
All - I have an all around knowledge of the area and can use that background when teaching my students.
I benefited most from the Advertising and Public Relations courses as these are related to what I intend to do when I return to the work force.
Feature writing, radio TV writing - both went beyond straight newswriting to include creative elements.
I only enrolled in a few but the most beneficial seemed to be JNM 131 and Broadcast Production (as well as JNM 130).
All - I was able to apply what I learned to what I was doing professionally.
Externship program and news writing.
The basic newswriting course and the public relations course - they are all critical.
Any classes with heavy writing experience. Do not recall which ones.
Do not recall actual title - Newswriting, reporting, broadcasting.
JNM 100 - helped me learn how to write better - radio and TV class - excellent experience in learning how radio and TV journalism actually work.
The writing courses benefited me the most. Courses such as mass communications, however, were soon forgotten and seemed to be more "poof" than practical.
News writing and studio production - studio work makes the class more exciting. Writing - I use all the time.
Newswriting - it was a basic course taught well. Mr. Roepken emphasized discipline and professional attitude.
Externship where students worked at different businesses once a week.
Short story writing - I do it as a hobby and hope to be published.
News reporting and writing - Mass communications - Media adjuncts. News reporting gave good basic writing skills; other two gave good overview; practical experience in mass communications was vital.
The one that could have benefited me the most but did not because of my attitude towards it was the advertising class. This is all I am doing now! Working for an ad agency and studios and the advertising departments of various corporations and advertisers.
News reporting - it relates directly to what I am presently doing. It helped me most in doing interviews. I know what kind of questions to ask and I have confidence doing it.
All of them were informative. I suppose news writing and reporting was most beneficial because it helped me organize my thoughts.
Everyone of them and I am still utilizing them.
Do not recall specifically.
The externship class provided excellent experience---made my first resume look so good!
Radio writing - it is by far the weakest element most job candidates have.
Best element was the stressing hands-on experience while in the program. This probably was the best factor.
The externship program was most helpful in providing students with an overview of the broad range of journalism-related fields.
All writing courses, media adjuncts, copy reading and editing, radio and TV.

News writing - very important in establishing the foundation.
The basic writing courses and the philosophical direction given by Mr. Roepken.
All of them -- the work was very practical - including typing to fit space and headline counting. Have used those skills extensively in doing newsletters and brochures. News writing and subsequent classes that used those writing skills have been very helpful in writing press releases.

Summary of Most Beneficial Courses

	N
News Reporting and Writing	20
Whole Program was Great	18
Media Adjuncts	12
Copy Reading and News Editing	11
TV and Radio	9
Feature Writing	8
Fundamentals of Journalism	8
Externship	7
All Courses with Heavy Writing Demands	3
Marketing	1
Speech	1
English Courses	1
Short Story Writing	1
Mass Communications	1

General Comments about the Journalism Program at Harper

It is an excellent program - it is well taught and if a student is willing to apply himself, there is much to be learned. The program is comparable many university journalism programs.
A lot of practical experience which made all the difference when it came to job hunting out of school. In this field, on-the-job training is more important than book learning.
It definitely was a good program, certainly covered all the aspects (newspaper, TV, advertising, etc.). Mr. Roepken, hope you are still as humorous and witty as in 1979.
The journalism program provides a student with a solid base knowledge and working understanding of ground level journalism skills. The program provides the opportunity to explore the many areas of journalism.
I am convinced the program at Harper gave me enough in the fundamentals to go out and find a job in journalism. I would suggest trying to work with the four-year schools to get more credit for J/classes taken at Harper. Also, my bias is showing, but I would like to see classes geared to the business press.
I thought it was a very good program, although I only completed one year. I wish now that I had continued.
It is definitely an excellent program - professionalism is always stressed. The curriculum covers many aspects of newspaper, radio/television, public relations and advertising work and that is good/ but I think some courses in magazine work and publishing would help to make the program more complete.

General Comments about the Journalism Program at Harper (continued)

Excellent - I could not have had a better start. Henry and Susanne taught me accuracy, brevity, relevance and discipline. Sorry, Henry, I am still a half-assed speller, but still use the American Heritage dictionary from your class.

Unfortunately, I have not kept up with Harper's program. I can say that the program while I was there gave me an excellent grounding in the basics that has carried me through many job advancements.

Even though I was such a "bad" student, the courses I took were helpful in many areas and I did learn - only enough. I was never tested in those areas to receive passing grades, i.e., hardwork/self-motivation/punctuality/spelling, etc.

I think that it is, for a community college, an excellent hands-on program.

Fantastic! The program is very well structured and educational. However, the one over-riding reason why the program is so successful is because of Mr. Henry Roepken. In my entire life, he was the BEST instructor I ever had. Without him, Harper's journalism program would be in trouble.

I enjoyed the program, however, I would suggest the offering of more photo-journalism. I feel that the J/program is very weak in that aspect considering the impact of photography in today's print media.

I enjoyed it very much. Journalism came fairly easy for me and I was eager to learn more.

The emphasis on grammar, sentence and paragraph structure are vital to anyone who will use written communication in their career. I would encourage the instructors to continue with this as a foundation for the program. To be capable of selling yourself to an employer, a committee or an organization, you need to be articulate. I believe the program has given me these tools to be successful in many areas unrelated.

The journalism program at Harper was a growing experience. I cannot say enough good things about the program, especially Mr. Roepken and Ms. Havlic. The "J" program was so complete, that I have been moving on a faster track than those I know with four year and advanced degrees. Although I have been employed by a large corporation, I use the skills I learned in the Harper "J" program daily. Thanks!

My journalism training at Harper was exceptional. Mr. Roepken offered valuable life experiences and real world knowledge to classroom study that matched with what many people I work with who have four-year journalism degrees.

Perhaps the heavy concentration on news writing is most beneficial to "purists", but a good dose of copy writing is indeed necessary to all. We had no real instruction in that area which is becoming more respected. My expertise in that area was certainly attained by working on-the-job.

It is a great program with excellent teachers. The education I received at Harper was far superior to that which I received at Roosevelt. There is more interaction with students and a strong emphasis on what is required in the "real world."

I have been in the work force for almost ten years and I feel the broadness of scope within the program has helped tremendously. The more real life applications of journalism, p/r and promotion that can be presented -- should be. Also, employers tend to hire individuals with strong production knowledge (i.e., a/v, printing, keyline) even if they will not be specifically performing the task. Perhaps a production course should be included in the program.

One does not realize how much this program benefits a student. As a transfer student, I found that leaving Harper to continue my education was a treat. I had more knowledge and experience than some college seniors which I came in contact with.

I think the journalism program at Harper has been the best, most useful educational experience I have had. I would not change a thing.

News reporting class teaches basic journalistic skills as well as disciplinary skills. Covers many areas of journalism, although could have benefited from courses on investigative reporting and editorial writing.

General Comments about the Journalism Program at Harper (continued)

I found the quality of instruction at Harper to be compatible to that of most four-year institutions which offer degrees in the same. In fact, Harper's emphasis on "hands-on" experience probably produces better journalists in the same time period as a four-year institution. In the transfer to Indiana University and the entrance exams and interviews which followed, every single reporting class requirement was waived.

Excellent - one of the best two-year programs. Would like to see more of a working relationship between JNM program and four-year schools and the Harbinger.

There was little wrong with it. In most ways, it surpassed NIU's four-year program in both curriculum and faculty.

It forced me to work just as hard if not harder than any college course I have ever taken. I was in an 'upper level' atmosphere where production counted.

I found it very interesting, enjoyed learning what a reporter's job is all about. Dropped out of the program because the advertising course was mandatory and while I wanted to learn a little about it, did not see why it was necessary to create an ad campaign, etc. However, while working as a stringer, realized my strength was in creative or feature writing rather than reporting.

Excellent!

Glad to see photography course offered and hear weekly radio broadcast. Program needs more television experience. Also, encourage other work in media such as Public Relations and promotion areas.

Empirical nature of program is beneficial.

I thought the courses and feedback were great. Some semesters seemed a bit overloaded with material, but I have heard that has been changed.

I appreciate it more now than I did at the time. Most students are not ready for the "deadlines" when they are 17-18 years old. How about another "Journalism Reunion?"

I thorougly enjoyed the courses I took at Harper and learned a great deal about the various aspects of the journalism field.

Well run, personalized attention for students, strong in basics.

It was a great program--(and I am sure it still is) that stresses working on your own, not being pampered and learning by experience. It trained me to realize deadlines, time restraints, planning, etc.

Strong on skills - prepares students very well for field. Equal to major universities on theory and practice.

It is quite simply the most comprehensive and challenging two-year journalism program in the State, including the four-year schools. I have seen the four-year programs at NIU, SIU, ISU, University of Illinois, and EIU.

It offers an education.

Instructor Henry Roepken was the impetus behind my obtaining writing experience, which led to my first job. I feel this experience during school years put me light years ahead upon graduation. Recommend that business course(s) be required in sequence. Cannot remember much else.

Appreciate the practical, hands-on experience.

It is an excellent program. It still remains one of my most educational, enjoyable, and interesting experiences.

The "J" program is a good program with practical application, however, I feel that further education should be stressed (at least a BS or a BA) because a two-year degree does not do anyone much good in the long run if in fact the individual is a career oriented person.

It gave me an understanding of the basics needed for a job in broadcast journalism. It also got my juices flowing. And don't forget to change those wire machine ribbons!

It was great!

I felt the program was excellent.

General Comments about the Journalism Program at Harper (continued)

Mr. Roepken was a dynamic instructor who taught me discipline and professional attitude. Havlic's liberal hand in the Media Adjuncts made it a very creative outlet for me. It was a much more effective advertising class than any I took at NIU.

Excellent - Henry Roepken served as an outstanding role model - he inspired me to go back into teaching. He is a real professional.

Most valuable aspect is the on-the-job experience offered by program sources. This aspect should be increased.

Education is a small, nearly insignificant aspect of one's future. Work, who you know and how determined you are, counts most. School counts very little, but is necessary.

It think it is great - the entire program and I think it is about time Henry Roepken be made a professor.

I wish I could take it all over again now. After being out in the working world and seeing what it really is, I think I would benefit more from the "J" program now. Also, being a little older now, I think I would study better and absorb more now than I did right out of nigh school. It is a good program.

I thought it was wonderful. Much better than Loyola. Mr. Roepken was a fantastic, dedicated teacher. Most of what I know about journalism, I learned at Harper College. I frequently recommend it to others.

I owe my career to the "J" program.

It was excellent and fully prepared me for the furtherance of my education.

It got me where I am today.

Excellent in practicals - excellent staff. Could be stronger in layout, as many jobs require editors to perform here.

During my time there too much emphasis on training to become reporters - not enough on alternative ways to use good writing skills.

Excellent program - the only reason I did not continue was that I needed to work in order to support myself.

It was well structured and well taught, the externship program was most helpful in providing students with an overview of the broad range of journalism-related fields.

Needs more emphasis on trade press -- that is, the major flow of all "J" programs.

I think a course in editing would be worthwile. I felt the instruction was excellent.

The real success of the program is with the instructors, Henry Roepken and Susanne Havlic.

Summary of Comments	N	PCT
Positive Comments	52	80.0
Neutral Comments	10	15.4
Negative Comments	3	4.6
Total	65	100.0
If neutral comments split half positive/half negative		
Positive Comments	57	87.7
Negative Comments	8	12.3
	65	100.0

Among all Career Alumni, 65.4 percent of comments are positive.

An Additional Comment on Improving the Program at Harper

Slowly, educational institutions are coming to realize the value and importance of photojournalism. Some universities like Indiana, Missouri or Ohio now require journalism majors to take at least one class in photojournalism. These classes generally are not intended to teach students how to take photographs themselves but to help them gain an appreciation for that particular aspect of journalistic reporting.

News photographers hate to admit it but their job is subservient to that of the reporter because, in nine cases out of ten, the "photo assignment request" originates in the newsroom and not in the photo lab. And when a reporter lacks vision, the concept of what makes a photograph, the photo assignment is little more than a headshot. Both the photographer and the reporter are hurt when photography is relegated to headshots and space-filling features. It comes through particularly strong in newsprint.

Still, colleges are turning out hordes of "literally-minded" journalists each year. Individuals who give no thought to anything but the words flashing before them on their VDT screen. No thought to how a story might be illustrated photographically. No thought as to how a story should be presented in newsprint.

And, especially in the smaller-sized newspapers, these people are given the responsibility of newspaper design in addition to graphic and photographic illustration. If line art, graphs and charts and photographs are considered secondary from the outset, there can be little hope for improvement in the basic presentation of news. And the "Lou Grant" impression of "Animal" will continue to overshadow the undercurrent of change in photojournalism today.

I would very much like to see Harper create a course which combines some of these thoughts - which teaches the value of photojournalism and points to its historical uses throughout the years. One which points to the trends in design in U.S. newspapers - newspapers like the Orange County Register, the San Jose Mercury News, the Pittsburgh Press, or even USA Today.

A class which might bring students up-to-date with changing technology. The switch to color, graphics, charts and maps and modular design. If more reporters were made awar of what is good and bad in the industry today it might lead to better cooperation and communication among all departments of a given publication.

What would be your Best Advice to Journalism students of Today at Harper

All students should attend every class, do all required assignments to the best of their ability and any optional assignments offered to get the full benefits of the program.

If you are planning to attend another school for a BA or BS, check it out early. Lost all my journalism credits from Harper when I transferred -- MU would not accept them -- so I had to go to school for one more year.

Make certain you are doing what you want! If you have talent, use it! but most important, be happy.

Simply be absolutely certain a journalistic career is what one wants to pursue after graduation. I was not sure and consequently life became chaotic the remainder of 1979 and again late, 1981-82.

Not only to do the best you can in classes, but to take full advantage of any extra curricular activities available. Always keep on top of current events - especially related to your particular field.

What would be your Best Advice (continued)

Be strong in the basics - spelling, grammar, sentence structure, editing copy. Then move into the real working world to get experience, even if it is not exactly the position you want.

Write, write, write! Submit stories to local newspapers and look for opportunities to string. A campus newspaper will also help build a clipfile. Also, begin "net working" by making contacts already employed in the field. Who you know may pay off in tips on upcoming job openings, etc.

Stick with it. Mr. Roepken knows what he is talking about.

If you do not understand the reasoning behind something, ask someone. Learn from everything you do, and get as much experience as you can in all the aspects of journalism - writing, editing, photography, make-up, etc. - you never know what you'll be called on to do. Accept any opportunity to learn new things.

You are in the right place, you are learning the right things. Learn all you can and use those tools to take you as far as you would like to go. They are the basic skills for many fields of endeavor.

Consider journalism to be a profession. Go for a BA or better on top of your basic grounding at Harper. Don't just focus on journalism--study a broad range of subjects. Specialize in a subject if at all possible.

Listen closely to Henry Roepken. I thought he expressed the idea of common sense and a broad area of lifes experience and knowledge in relation to journalism. Journalism touches in many and all aspects of life and for me, I think sales is similar.

Even while in school, try to work in the area of journalism of your choice at the same time (or sell your work). The combination is invaluable, and you leave school a step ahead - with experience.

Get some practical, on-the-job experience in the field while you are still in college. A job that pays -- no matter how little -- can only impress a prospective employer.

Absorb yourself - don't just set aside enough time for homework and leave it at that - if you have to work, take a job in a related field as a stringer, etc.

Work hard to develop your "listening skills" since this is important in all walks of life, but especially for those at work in the media. Reach out and absorb everything you can, it will help you throughout your career. Would you believe, I still keep my Callihan "Grammar for Journalists" book within easy reach.

Study grammar, spelling, and make-up of newspapers.

No matter how intimidated you may feel by someone who has graduated from Columbia or Northwestern, you can feel great knowing that your educational experience surpasses their mediocre education. This fact is also becoming more recognized by employers as well.

Follow the advice of your professors - do everything they say because they are right about what is required of you in the field. Also, be confident - push your abilities and let them work for you.

The program at Harper is excellent and can be used either as a foundation for a career or a base to continue their education.

The one comment I would have is to work hard and strive to be the best. By setting your goals and dedicating yourself to your work, nothing but success will follow.

Get published as soon as possible. It is not really that hard to do - and get a bachelor's degree if at all possible. Unfortunately, a lot of jobs require the BS, even though all the basic journalistic skills can be learned in the Harper program.

Do not bother with campus paper -- string for local paper. Learn how to use a camera and learn how to cover different things (spot news, features, sports).

There is no substitute for hands-on experience. I don't think anyone at Harper realizes how much an internship increases your chances of employment following graduation. Also, I would draw your attention to the vast numbers of newspapers,

What would be your Best Advice (continued)

radio stations, PR firms, etc., across the country which take interns. Learn what the industry is like outside the Chicago area and use the experience to determine where you would ideally like to work. Regional experience increase references.

Hang in there and keep at it - I let too many things interrupt my education - Stick with school. When you get out, don't be intimidated by the fact that you are an "unknown" in the writing field. Keep a journal so you will write about your day-to-day observations. When you come upon an idea that seems marketable, outline it, write it, edit it, and send it off to a proper publication. File those rejection letters in the fireplace and keep on trying. I am learning from my mistakes and I now believe it is only a matter of time before I strike the right editor with the right article (idea) at the right time. A good writer who does not write does not give himself the chance for success. Go for it!

Get related work experience even while in school.

Transfer to a four-year program only if you want the degree. Also, if you end up in the work force as something other than a writer, having the journalism background is an excellent basic. You would not believe the people who cannot communicate on paper!

Work hard. Even if they don't stay in journalism, the program will teach them how to study and succeed in other college programs. Plus you will have a journalism background.

Hang in there! Don't give up even if you feel abused, bruised and blue.

Background obtained can be successfully applied in other fields and need not be limited to working in the field itself.

Don't be afraid to start small -- as a stringer or selling ads. Once you get a foot in the door you can show your talents.

Work hard or get out of the program if you are just in college to "party."

Pay attention.

Drill on grammar, spelling, and writing skills. Jobs are available for strong writers especially in the business press.

You might think that Mr. Roepken is wrong a lot, but in reality he is not. Also, learn how to type. If you are going to pursue a bachelor's degree at a four-year college, consider doing it in a major other than journalism only because they do not teach it as extensively as Harper's program. It is to your benefit to use your knowledge and experience already gained and use it with something else, i.e., plitical science, public relations, advertising. The basic journalism program at NIU was not as comprehensive or challenging as Harper's.

Write, write, and write some more -- the more you write, the better you write.

Learn to excel in all journalism classes - PR, newswriting, advertising - you will use them all in one way or another in your career.

Take business courses. Obtain experience as interns, college newspaper reporters, public relations writers, anything. Talk to people who are experienced in your field of endeavor - obtain "real world" information.

Don't wait to finish school before starting to work.

Work hard at it! Even if you don't go into journalism as a career, the program at Harper will have a lasting benefit on your life.

Know basics - spelling, punctuation, etc. Write, write, write! Practice is the only way to improve.

Be sure to take business courses in addition to the "J" courses - business law, marketing, etc., to develop a broader knowledge base of the real working world - one cannot look forward to being a stringer for a local paper all their life.

Continue on - get the BS. The jobs are out there, you just have to work harder than the other guy.

What would be your Best Advice (continued)

Get a job in the field before getting out of school. Join associations related to your field and remember it is not always what you know but who you know. Get to know people in your field.

Try to get as much practical experience as possible.

Learn all you can - you will always use your training even if you do not go into journalism. I am very grateful for my background - it has helped make me a much better junior high teacher.

Get work experience in the field while going to school. Very difficult field to break into without even minor experience. Newspaper reporting (not features) is probably best.

Take your time! Be thorough - follow through - education is good for you, not your career as much, and is great for ones personal growth.

Take each class seriously and become totally involved.

Absorb all that you can - even if you don't end up in the journalism field, the education you gain will never be wasted. You will always be able to apply some of it to any job you take.

Take your time, this is as good as it is going to get.

Carry a double major or a strong minor so you are more marketable. Journalism is a good "general" degree but it helps to have back-up if you are not planning on graduate school.

Take that stringer's job!

Listen to every word uttered by Mr. Roepken and Ms. Havlic. They are fantastic teachers and instill in you a great respect for knowledge.

Radio news is not a group business -- seek position to work -- have something else you can do to earn a living to fall back on.

Get as much practical experience (even for fulfilling classroom assignments).

Consider fields and industries outside the sphere of newspapers/TV/radio reporting, i.e., public relations, advertising, marketing communications for corporations.

Keep your texts - they are ageless references.

Get a good understanding of business -- economics, marketing, management because many of the jobs are not in consumer media and also knowledge of business prepares one for management positions.

Major in business -- take your minor in journalism. Ask questions about everything..

Make sure you get that four-year degree and try to pick up as many non-journalism courses as possible, both technical and in the humanities. The more you experience life and the more you learn about other topics, the better writer you will be. There are not enough well-rounded journalists. Many are well trained technically but too many have not risen above ignoble beginnings intellectually.

APPENDIX

William Rainey Harper College
Algonquin and Roselle Roads
Palatine, Illinois 60067
312-397-3000

Dear Former Journalism Student:

What have you been doing? We'd really like to know!

We are very interested in learning about your accomplishments since leaving Harper College. So, we have composed a little survey in hopes of catching up on your endeavors. Not only will this help us plan for the future, but our tyro journalists are very interested to see what former graduates of the program are doing now.

Also, we are in the process of creating a newsletter to keep you informed on happenings in the Journalism Department and what grads are doing now. A current mailing list update is necessary so be sure to fill in the last item on the survey.

Please take a little time to answer some questions and mail the survey back in the addressed stamped envelope enclosed for your convenience.

Thank you and take care,

Susanne Havlic
Assistant Professor
Coordinator

Henry Roepken
Associate Professor

jc
Enclosures

SURVEY OF FORMER HARPER COLLEGE JOURNALISM STUDENTS

1- What is your current employment situation? Check (✓) one.

_____ I am employed full time
_____ I am employed part time by choice
_____ I am employed part time but would prefer full time
_____ I am unemployed by choice
_____ I am searching for employment

2- Name and address of employer (or self, if self-employed).

_____

_____

_____

Job Title_____

3- How is your present job related to your major field (Journalism) and what you prepared for at Harper? Check (✓) one.

_____ It is identical.
_____ It is closely related.
_____ It is somewhat related.
_____ It is not related but I would prefer working in the Journalism field.
_____ It is not related, by choice.

4- If you are not now working in the Journalism field but once did after leaving Harper, please list your former employer and your job title.

_____

_____

_____

Job Title_____

5- What is your salary range? Check (✓) one.

_____ $ 5,000 - $ 6,999 per year
_____ $ 7,000 - $ 8,999 per year
_____ $ 9,000 - $ 9,999 per year
_____ $10,000 - $11,999 per year
_____ $12,000 - $14,999 per year
_____ $15,000 - $19,999 per year
_____ $20,000 - $24,999 per year
_____ $25,000 - $29,999 per year
_____ $30,000 - $34,999 per year
_____ $35,000 - $40,000 per year
_____ Over $40,000 per year

(Over----)

6- What was your salary range your first year in the working field?

_____

7- In what geographic area do you work? Check (✓) one.

_____ Downtown Chicago
_____ Outer fringes of Chicago city limits
_____ Northwest suburban area
_____ Other Chicago area suburbs
_____ Within 40 to 100 miles of Chicago
_____ In Illinois, more than 100 miles from Chicago
_____ Outside of Illinois - Please specify _____

_____

8- How did you find your job? Check (✓) one.

_____ The Job Service helped me find it.
_____ The coordinator of my program helped me find it.
_____ Another faculty member helped me.
_____ A friend helped me.
_____ Found my job through another source (specify)_____

_____

_____ I found my job on my own
_____ I am working on the same job which I had when enrolled at Harper, and therefore I have not looked for a job since leaving Harper.

9- Have you met your career goals? Check (✓) one.

_____ Not at all. Which goals are most important for you to achieve?_____

_____

_____

_____ I am very close to meeting them.
_____ Yes, I have met them.
_____ Yes, I have met them and have gone beyond them.

10- Please list any personal awards, promotions, or accomplishments you have achieved since leaving Harper. _____

_____

_____

_____

11- What have your educational achievements been since leaving Harper?

_____ I have not taken any college courses since leaving Harper?
_____ I have continued my education but have not achieved a bachelor's degree.

School_____Major Field_____

_____ I have achieved a bachelor's degree or higher.

School_____Major Field and Degree__

_____

12- Please comment on the Journalism program at Harper -- suggestions are more than welcome._____

13- What specific classes in the Journalism program benefited you, and why?

14- What would be your best advice to Journalism students today at Harper?

15- Please list your full name (new one, if married), your present mailing address, and if you could, please send (under separate cover) an 8" x 10" glossy of yourself at work along with any exciting personal happenings - family, children, travel, etc._____

Telephone Number (Optional) Business: _____

Home: _____

ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE
FOR JUNIOR COLLEGES
JAN 24 1986